

Appl. No. 10/084,553  
Amdt. dated October 30, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of September 2, 2003

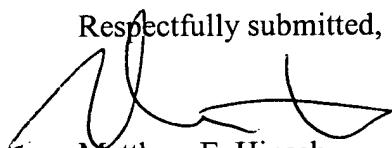
PATENT

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicants hereby elect with traverse the claims of Group II (claims 2-5).

According to the MPEP, where claims can be examined together without undue burden, the Examiner must examine the claims on the merits even though they are directed to independent and distinct inventions. *See*, the MPEP at 803.01. In establishing that an “undue burden” would exist for co-examination of claims, the Examiner must show that examination of the claims would involve substantially different prior art searches, making the co-examination burdensome. Applicants respectfully submit that examination of the claims in Groups I-III would not create an undue burden and respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement in this case.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-273-7554.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Matthew E. Hinsch  
Reg. No. 47,651

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 415-576-0200  
Fax: 415-576-0300  
Attachments  
60071347 v1